



UCCE Santa Clara County  
4-H Youth Development Program

MARCH, 2012

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## A 4-H Thanksgiving

By Ali H Cemendtaur, Homesteaders 4-H

Trees camouflage too. "How so?" she asked with her eyes wide open. And this is how the question was answered. Well, trees are obviously very different than animals—trees cannot change places, but still, through evolution, trees have honed their skills in making sure their genes survive. Trees want to protect their young ones so the fruit is always green, camouflaging well among the green leaves, till the fruit is ready to be taken away and have copies of tree's DNA dispersed far and wide.

And this is how it happened with the persimmon tree we have in the yard at the Homesteaders 4-H farm. First came the blossom, then small fruit appeared--and it was hard to see the fruit because it vanished in the sea of greenery. Wonderful camouflage by the persimmon! But one day—somewhere in

November—the tree decided its young ones were big enough to be on their own. An ochrous tinge suddenly appeared on all the persimmons. Over the next week or so the new hue grew and the green receded till all the persimmons became orange yellow. Party time!

Through the flashy color of its fruit the persimmon tree had given a flamboyant invite to birds and other animals: come, have a feast, and take my seeds to new places. On Thanksgiving, 4-Hers sat on benches under the same persimmon tree. Even when it was only the turkey and a few assorted dishes that had ingredients grown on the 4-H farm, people eating the Thanksgiving meal knew how much, in spirit, they were like the Pilgrims. It is a wonderful feeling to grow your own food, eat with others who share your values, and be thankful for the wonderful life.

## Quilting a Log Cabin

By Lauren Oliver  
Pleasant Acres 4-H Club

The first Quilting Project in Pleasant Acres was a blast for everyone! The quilters all brought their sewing machines, and set them up in a big room. Some of the techniques we learned were: rotary cutting,

ironing, and sewing quilting seams. We cut lots of different fabric into 2-1/2 inch strips to make "Log Cabin" quilting squares. This type of quilt is made up of many little rectangles, and is very fun to create! Later, I brought my finished square home, and after making two more, I sewed them

together and will make it a table runner. Everyone involved is so passionate about quilting, it's hard not to feel the same way. We are all anticipating the next Quilting Project, and are encouraging you to come too!

### ONLINE CALENDAR

#### Event Name & Date

[4-H County Council Meeting](#)  
3/13/2012

[County 4-H Fashion Revue](#)  
3/24/2012

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## Presentation Day

By Lauren Oliver  
Pleasant Acres 4-H Club

Presentation Day is an all-county event where 4H kids practice public speaking and have fun while doing it! Some of the presentations I saw were about: cartooning, cats, poultry, Legos, and Harry Potter. For my presentation, I explained all about guinea pigs and showed my cavy Reepicheep. I told everyone the importance of a guinea pig's diet, and that fresh vegetables and occasional fruits should be available to your pet. In addition, I demonstrated picking up and holding a cavy using a maneuver called the "Taco Pick Up." Lastly, I talked about grooming. My two brothers and I all got golds, and are so excited! 4H Presentation Day was an exciting event to be a part of; everyone had lots of fun! I recommend all 4H'ers to this opportunity, and hope to see you next year!

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## Revised Santa Clara County 4-H Farm Policies

The Santa Clara County 4-H Council Farm Committee revised the existing farm policies to include additional information on the selection of a ranch manager and responsibilities of project leaders. The committee also added clarifying language throughout the document. The revised policies were approved by the 4-H Youth

#1 Community Service Project!  
By - Kyle Geringer

**JOIN** | THE REVOLUTION   
OF RESPONSIBILITY

Have you heard about the community service project that the 4-H State Fashion Revue is teaming up together with the local communities to accomplish? It is The Million Pillowcase Project! It is an organization where you sew standard size (20" by 30") pillowcase to give to the State Fashion Revue committee and they donate to local charities such as the military, hospitals, rehabilitation centers, senior centers just to name a few.

The pillowcases are easy to make and will go a long way to support a great cause! Getting creative with your pillowcase fabric makes it happier and more enjoyable. You can pick a combo of fabrics such as cars, fairies, horses, ballerinas, sports, polka dots, stripes, animal print; the list goes on and on. One website in particular includes the pattern and more information about this organization.

Go to: [www.allpeoplequilt.com](http://www.allpeoplequilt.com) and click on Million Pillowcase Challenge.

When you have made your pillowcases, you can bring them personally to State Fashion Revue on May 26<sup>th</sup>, or contact me and I will take them for you. Kyle Geringer @ [srgerin225@sbcglobal.net](mailto:srgerin225@sbcglobal.net)  
Your donation of pillowcases will go a long way to support a great cause!!! We would like Santa Clara County to have the most pillowcases donated. Would you like to help us with this challenge??

#2 Community Service Project: Bag Up Fashion!  
By - Kyle Geringer

This year one of the Challenges at Fashion Revue is Bag Up Fashion (see the following link <http://www.ca4h.org/files/121894.pdf>) After the State Fashion Revue committee selected this pattern Simplicity discontinued it. So you may not be able to find it. We have purchased one for every County. If you are thinking about making one for the Fashion Revue, please email me. I will put your name on the list to make sure you get a copy of the pattern.

Thank you,  
Kyle Geringer

State Fashion Revue Committe ([srgerin225@sbcglobal.net](mailto:srgerin225@sbcglobal.net))

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Development Advisor on December 12, 2011. These policies are posted on the yahoo group [SCC 4-H Farm policies 2011.pdf](#) and on the SCC4H.org Web site on the SCC 4-H Council page



## ARE YOU READY FOR SUMMER CAMP?

4-H Summer Camp is going to be at a new time and a new location this year. The dates are June 24 through 28 for campers and June 23 through June 29 for staff. Clover Camp is one day of camp for Youth Members age 5 through 8 and is going to be on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Our new location is going to be a Girl Scout camp in the dense redwood forest of Butano Creek located in Pescadero. Campers need to be at least 9 years old to attend camp all week. All camp staff meetings are on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Applications will be posted to the yahoo group and the scc4h.org website very soon.

On Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> the 4-H Camp Director team will be hosting a Summer Camp Information Session at 1555 Berger Dr. in the Auditorium. If you have any questions about sending your children to 4-H camp or being a chaperone please come by and all your questions will be answered. In order for camp to actually happen we are going to need at least 18 adult chaperones this year.

The summer weather in Pescadero is quite cool, so those of us that like cool foggy weather in the summer will really enjoy this camp location. The kitchen and dining hall are very new and very beautiful. The dining hall is enclosed which we will most likely really enjoy on those foggy morning and evenings.

So, if you like the outdoors, hiking, crafts, good food, shooting sports, and lots of fun please consider coming to camp this year. Look for camper, clover, and chaperone applications soon.

Email [scc4hcamp@yahoo.com](mailto:scc4hcamp@yahoo.com) with any questions.



## COOKIE!

By Zoe and Ellie Striplin  
Coyote Crest 4-H Club

We made spritz cookies, butter cookies and lemon bars. We had three teams. Each team made one type of

cookie. All teams came together and decorated the spritz cookies and we decorated the butter cookies. We all got three. It was fun and the cookies were yummy!



## Nibblets!

By Jackson Oliver  
Pleasant Acres 4-H Club

At a guinea pig/rabbit fair, I got a new guinea pig named Nibblets. He is brown, tan, black, and white! I wanted an Abyssinian

to breed with my brother's sow, and there was only one. I loved him immediately, and purchased him. During the show, I sat down at a table and held him for at least an hour. Whenever my

brother's was being judged, I ran over to see how it was going. I wanted to enter Nibblets and tried to, but the sign-ups were earlier. When we got home, we put him with my brother's, and he purred a lot. He goes nuts over Galaxy, which is her name. He doesn't care what's in his way, as long as he can get to her! I love my new guinea pig, and he loves me too!

## NEWS AROUND SANTS CLARA COUNTY...

Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District has hosted a Land Judging Competition for, at least, the past 20 years; and we want to welcome all local High School students who have an interest in the science of soils, geology, agriculture or ecology to participate. We are outreaching to the North County, in partnership with Guadalupe-Coyote RCD, because we believe that it is important for you to discover the value of soils in Santa Clara County and to be able to participate in intelligent land-use decisions in the future.

So, here is the plan: On April 26<sup>th</sup>, the weather will be gorgeous, or not; dress accordingly. You will climb down into excavated pits, grab a handful of dirt, apply water, get mucky, and determine the soil-type you are squishing between your fingers. Based upon local slope, drainage, and rockiness, you will decide the best use for this small part of our county. Land Judging begins at noon, and lunch is provided. Awards will be given, including a full-scholarship to Range Camp for the 1<sup>st</sup> Place winner. Does this sound like fun? Interested 4 H leaders and students are invited to call Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District Executive Director, Susan Meyer, at our office telephone number: (408) 847-4171, or email her at: [susanm@lomaprietarcd.org](mailto:susanm@lomaprietarcd.org).

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## Youth Leadership Development and Thrive

Most youth who are junior or teen leaders in Santa Clara County are enrolled in Thrive, a research-based youth leadership development project. Previous research states that positive youth development outcomes for youth are associated with a variety of factors, including understanding one's spark, having a growth mindset and being able to effectively set and manage goals. The Thrive curriculum is designed to increase youth's ability to identify their spark, develop a growth mindset and learn to set and manage their goals. In the process of learning these skills and abilities, youth will develop a variety of other skills such as organization, communication, decision making and public speaking.

Whereas other youth leadership curriculum teaches a variety of these skills as stand-alone components, the Thrive curriculum integrates the development of these and other skills into various lesson plans/project meetings. In Thrive:

- Youth who know what their SPARK is have a deeper sense of how they fit into this world. When a spark is ignited, it has the potential of

The instructional book, used as a training manual for the Loma Prieta Resource Conservation District Land Judging Contest can be found at this link: <http://horticulturevideos.com/soil.html#ljm>

FFA Land Judging Manual Booklet

This is the 5th edition of the Land Judging Manual that is used for all land judging contests in California. This manual provides a means by which students can record their observations and interpret soils for land use and management. Among many topics, it covers: surface and subsoil features, interpretations, erosion, topography, land capability classes, and land management needs. Length: 30 minutes © 1994

[+ Add To Cart](#)

FFA Land Judging Manual Booklet \$17.99



turning into a firestorm!

- Youth who have a mindset for growth are more prepared to face what life throws at them. Youth who see challenges as an opportunity to learn and grow will tend to embrace change with confidence.
- Youth who are connected to caring adults and peers are more likely to thrive and succeed. A sense of belonging is one of the greatest emotional needs of humanity. The stronger the relationships our young people have with others, the more support they have to help them thrive.
- Youth who know where they want to go and have the tools to get there, usually will. When we help young people identify goals, develop strategies to reach them, and help them learn how to navigate through challenges, we are teaching them a process that will help them stay on a path of thriving.



## **28<sup>th</sup> Annual Natural Resources Science Camp for High School Students - 2012 Applications now Available**

### **Mark your calendars for this great opportunity!**

April 20<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for submitting applications for Range Camp! Range Camp is a week-long camp experience for students ages 15-18 who have an interest in the science and conservation of natural resources in California. The camp, celebrating its 28<sup>th</sup> year, is put on by the California-Pacific section of the Society for Range Management. Students learn plant identification, principles of livestock and wildlife management, forestry, fire ecology, hydrology and water quality, geology and soils, and management of stream and river environments. Field activities include learning to read wildlife 'sign', outdoor navigation with compasses, maps and GPS, forest management, a tour of a working ranch, and a beach BBQ. Sessions are taught by faculty from the University of California, staff from local, state and federal agencies, and private professional scientists and natural resource management specialists. Range Camp runs from June 17<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> at the University of California's Elkus Youth Ranch just south of Half Moon Bay. Information and applications are available at <http://www.rangelands.org/casrm/HTML/rangecamps.html>. Cost is \$400.00. Applications will be considered after the deadline on a space available basis.

This is a unique opportunity for students thinking about college to learn about university-level courses of study in agriculture and natural resources, and for students looking for job opportunities to talk with a variety of professionals whose careers touch on their areas of interest.

The Society for Range Management will send the top two campers as representatives to a national high school youth forum held concurrently with its annual science conference in Oklahoma City, OK in February of 2013.

In addition, most local Resource Conservation Districts are willing to help sponsor students. If you need help finding a contact for your local Resource Conservation District please contact:

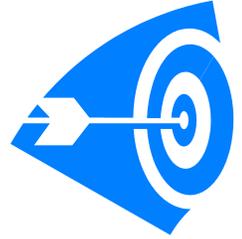
Northern California: Mary Kimball, (530) 795-1520 [mary@landbasedlearning.org](mailto:mary@landbasedlearning.org)

Central California: Theresa Becchetti, (209) 525-6800 [tabecchetti@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tabecchetti@ucdavis.edu)

Southern California: Cece Dahlstrom, (619) 532-2269 [carol.dahlstrom@navy.mil](mailto:carol.dahlstrom@navy.mil)



## News From The State



### **4-H Shooting Sports Workshop Archery Discipline March 23 - 25, 2012**

### **4-H Shooting Sports Workshop Rifle Discipline Tulare, CA**

**Saturday, April 14, 2012  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 15, 2012  
8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

A 4-H shooting sports workshop for the rifle discipline will be held at Rankin Field Range, 20000 Road 140 in Tulare. Participants must attend both days of training to receive certification. Upon successful completion of the course, the participant will be certified as a rifle trainer and can lead a rifle project at the club level or serve as county trainer to certify other leaders. There is no cost for the course. To register for the course or receive more information, contact John Borba at: [jaborba@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jaborba@ucdavis.edu) (This course is not open to 4-H leaders from Santa Cruz or Ventura Counties).

For information about the facility and a map, please visit the range website at:

<http://tcdsa.org/>

YMCA Camp Campbell - Boulder Creek, CA  
(Santa Cruz County)

A 4-H shooting sports workshop in the archery discipline will be held in conjunction with the 2012 California 4-H Camping Conference. The training is open to 4-H leaders and teen leaders (high school aged youth).

Upon successful completion of the course, adult volunteers (21 and older) will be certified to instruct archery project in the club, county or at camp. Cost for the course is \$160 and includes class material and meals and lodging. For more information or to register online, visit this website:

<http://www.ca4h.org/Programs/Camps/Conference/>

### **4-H Updates E-News March 2012**

Welcome to the March 2012 issue of 4-H Updates E-News.

You may access the PDF document at:  
<http://www.ca4h.org/News/>.

University of California  
Agriculture and Natural Resources



We're on the Web: [scc4h.org](http://scc4h.org)



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**Deadline for articles ins the 15th of each**

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**All meetings and events are open to EVERYONE!**  
**Contact the office for special accommodations for disabled persons**

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